

behaviour ; and memory is *the essential and characteristic factor of all mental life*; which being given or made intelligible by the postulations of *mneme* (or the engram), all the rest follows without need of further fundamental assumptions. All three are ardent believers in Lamarckian transmission, ' the inheritance of acquired characters ', by way of engrams in the germ-cells.

In all three schemes all turns upon the natural functioning of engrams. Each of the three authors assumes that, if his view of the formation, nature, and functioning of the engram is accepted, all biological (including the psychological) problems are in principle solved. We may concentrate on Bleuler's version as being the latest and the most enlightened of the three.¹ Bleuler has the great advantage of being primarily a psychologist and of appreciating the nature of conation, which the others virtually ignore. His introduction is an excellent *resume*. I shall attempt to translate it. * The theory of the *mneme* finds in biological events the same principles which dominate psychical activities. Our psyche is indeed a specialization of functions which are common to all living substance and which make the difference between dead and living matter. Irritability, conduction of excitations, the storage of these in the form of engrams, the fusion of these with earlier engrams and the influencing of the modes of reaction of the living being through these stored up experiences, all these processes go on in principle in the same way in the living tissues and in our psyche. The germ-cells are in this respect no

exceptions, so that the development of
species is deter-
mined through the inheritance of acquired
adaptations
according to ascertainable laws, and is not
the product

¹ *Mechanisms, Vitalisms, Mnemisms*, Berlin, 1931.